



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2016
TO: Interested individuals and organizations
FROM: Agustin Arbulu, Director
Michigan Department of Civil Rights
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS
FLINT WATER CONTAMINATION CRISIS

As you may be aware, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission is examining the question of what, if any, role race may have played in the Flint water contamination crisis. As part of this effort, the Commission is holding three public hearings with the intent of receiving the testimony of a number of Flint residents who have been effected by the water contamination, as well as a number of experts.

The first hearing focused on residents, harm, and remediation efforts, and the second hearing's focus was on housing-related issues. On September 8th at 3:00 pm the Commission will be holding its 3rd hearing on the water crisis at the Northbank Center in Flint. This hearing will focus on environmental (in)justice and the role it may have played in the decisions leading up to the Flint water contamination crisis. Public comment will be received at the end of the hearing, at approximately 6:30 p.m.

We know that the few minutes of public comment that we are able to provide to everybody who wishes to offer testimony are often not sufficient. Presenting research, comprehensive analysis, or simply telling a personal story in the detail it deserves are but three of the many examples when public comment may not be an effective forum for ensuring the Commission is able to consider all input. For this reason, the Commission wants you to know that:

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission is seeking written testimony on what, if any, role race may have played in creating and/or responding to the Flint water contamination crisis. Written testimony may be submitted by an individual or an organization, and will be **accepted until September 30, 2016, via e-mail to MDCRDirector@Michigan.gov or mailed to the following address:**

**Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Attn: Flint Water Crisis Testimony
110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933**

The Commission is interested in hearing from you on any aspect of the water contamination crisis, but particularly anything that addresses:

- Housing or housing discrimination and its relationship to the water contamination crisis.
- Environmental justice and its relationship to the water contamination crisis.
- Race, class, or wealth and its relationship to the water contamination crisis.
- Personal testimony from those affected by the watercontamination crisis.

All testimony, whether submitted in person or in writing, will be considered by the Commission in preparation of the final report and recommendations it will issue in December 2016. To be considered, testimony must include personal contact information for the person who is offering it. Written testimony will be made available for public viewing and may be published as part of the Commission's report, or on its website.